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To answer this question properly, it is necessary to divide the occupation force into two classes, or categories. In one of these fall EM and NCO's; the other category is composed of officer personnel. Naturally, the EM and NCO's are under the control of the officers. In the 24th Air Army this control was constant and complete; during working hours at the Airdrome and during off hours at the living quarters. Also, military installations are surrounded by high fences with barbed wire on the top. NCO's or privates, are never permitted to leave the military installations. In cases of emergency (like going to the hospital, etc.), when a Sergeant or a Private has to leave the military installation, an officer is assigned to see to it that said enlisted man reaches his destination safely without getting involved in fraternization. For example: if an enlisted man's stay in the hospital is prolonged beyond a few hours, a commissioned officer takes him to his unit. When the man is ready to be discharged from said hospital, the hospital authorities notify his commanding officer who assigns some commissioned officer to go and escort the enlisted man back to his unit. When an enlisted man is ready to be discharged from the hospital and at the same time there is an officer from a nearby unit also ready to be discharged from this hospital, the hospital turns the enlisted man to said officer, and it becomes this officer's responsibility to see to it that the enlisted man goes directly to his unit. On the basis of the above, it can be seen that sergeants and privates have no opportunity for fraternizing with German nationals. However, NCO's and privates do have secret contacts with

CLASSIFICATION SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 2 -

50X1

German girls, despite all the strict measures imposed by the authorities. These contacts are effected by the following means: NCO's and privates are periodically scheduled for guard duty all around the military installation. While on this duty, they have the right to stop any German national who might be passing by. Besides the guard duty, there is also a patrol duty which involves moving about and examining identification papers of any national in the vicinity. At times, personnel on such a guard or patrol duty, stop German nationals not with the idea of examining their papers but rather with the idea of engaging them in a conversation and getting acquainted with them. During such duty hours guard and patrol personnel have ample opportunity to discover safe places to meet new acquaintances as well as to find a hole in the fence or some other weak spot where they would not be noticed sneaking out at night. Each patrol or guard is periodically relieved and given a couple of hours rest. Instead of resting, however, they crawl through or climb over the fence in order to keep pre-arranged dates with German girls for an hour or so of their rest period. When absence of an individual is discovered and the absence is over a period of more than two hours, the guilty individual is apprehended and charged with desertion, or at least a willful unauthorized absence. He is then court-martialed by a military tribunal. However, the resulting sentence depends on the man's previous record and on his commanding officer - mostly on the CO. In most cases, however, whenever an NCO or a private has a date with a German national, he tells his closest friends where he can be found in the event his superiors begin a search for him. Immediately after such a search begins, the missing man's friends get a word out to him so that in most cases he manages to turn up somewhere within the military installation and thereby escapes punishment. The NCO's and the privates usually develop very close comradeship and are always willing to cover up for one another.

Officer personnel are allowed more freedom than the EM, however, they too are not allowed to leave the military installation without specific permission from their superiors. Such permissions are granted only when it is necessary to leave the military installation on official business during working hours. For example: going to a bank, hospital, visiting other military installations, going on TDY or on a pass. Under above indicated circumstances, officers take the opportunity to acquaint themselves with German nationals, particularly women, and make arrangements to meet again. Also officers' quarters are cared for by German maids. These maids work during the day only. During lunch period officers often see these women, talk with them and make dates for later meetings. These conversations as well as the dates are held in secret. Each officer with a rank of a Captain and above has a private room. The three ranks of lieutenants usually share one room between two or three officers, who become very close friends and often go out on double dates together. Whenever the political or counter intelligence section gets wind of such goings on, the officer suspected of like violations is kept under surveillance until he is caught entering a hotel with a German girl, or visiting her in her own home. Within 24 hours, the guilty officer is transferred to a Special VVS Cadre which makes immediate arrangements to send this officer out of the occupation zone back to the Soviet Union. This same Cadre provides an escort, consisting of an officer of equal or one grade higher than the accused. All of the documents belonging to the accused are carried by the escort until they reach the Soviet Union border at which time the papers are turned over to the accused who is then allowed to proceed to Moscow alone while the escorting officer returns to his unit in Germany or Austria.

All military personnel of the 24th Air Army have their quarters within military installations which are fenced in all the way around. The difference between the officer and enlisted personnel is that officer personnel are not required to have an official escort, whereas the enlisted personnel do have to have an officer escort whenever it is necessary to leave the military installation. Besides military personnel, sections of the 24th Air Army employed a considerable number of civilians (Soviet Citizens) who also were forbidden to leave the military installation without specific permission. All military personnel of the 24th Air Army are categorically forbidden to enter any German night clubs, restaurants, theaters, playhouses or any other places of recreation or amusement. All managers of such establishments were ordered to refuse admittance to all Soviet military personnel. In cases when a Soviet soldier or an officer insists on being admitted and served the local Commander of the Metropolitan Military Kommandatura is to be notified at once. Failure to follow these directives will result in a heavy fine for the first offense. If it happens the second time, his business establishment will be closed.

The Soviet government, the Military Commander of all occupation forces in Germany and the Commander of the 24th Air Army take a very serious view of any Soviet Military or Civilians who establish contacts with German Nationals and adopted strong measures to prevent the establishment of such contacts. The Soviet Government and the Ministry of Armed Forces have issued a whole string of directives and orders prohibiting all Soviet citizens on occupation duty from fraternizing in any way with German Nationals. Violators of these directives are tried by the Military tribunal and severely punished. Such directives, or orders, are read to all military and civilian occupation forces. All officers attending such a reading have to sign a roster which shows the purpose for which the meeting was called. Other personnel are not required to sign any document but the Personnel Section keeps track of all those present at the reading so that no one can claim that he was not aware that such a regulation was in existence.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

- 3 -

50X1

Officers are tried under a unique system called "Court of Officers' Honor". This court is composed of a chairman and several officers. All of them, including the chairman, are subordinate to the commanding officer, which means that the Commanding Officer can and often does influence the court's decision even though he never sits in on the session. This court has power to demote a guilty officer one grade for a specific period of time after which an officer reverts to his old rank, or it can delay the promotion of such an officer for a specific period of time. At times, instead of demoting an officer in grade, the court merely demotes him in assignment, ie, gives him a less responsible assignment in the unit. The court may give the accused an official reprimand and let it go at that. In cases of more serious violation such as repetition of fraternization or the slightest evidence of disclosure of military information like revealing one's unit number, the trials are conducted by a Military Tribunal and the sentences are from 10 to 25 years of hard labor. In order to further cut down on fraternization, the SAF officers are given two furloughs per year of 45 days each, plus travelling time. Both of these furloughs have to be spent in the USSR. Tour of occupation duty, for SAF officers, is four years, but because of the two 45 day furloughs the actual time spent in Germany is only three years. There is no time limit on tour of duty for civilians. Also the privates and NCO's do not have any specific time limit of occupation duty but they do have specific tours of military service.

Whenever a civilian is caught fraternizing with a German national, he is immediately shipped, under guard, to the Soviet Union. His personal record is also fixed to indicate the reason why he is being returned from Germany, ie, he is undesirable, a factor which reflects on his character. One who receives such a character rating is very seldom able to find a good job in the Soviet Union. At times such a civilian violator of regulations is tried by a military tribunal (because there are no civil courts in the occupation zone) and sentenced to hard labor for a period of time depending on the seriousness of his crime. Regarding privates and NCO's, the authorities take a very serious view of any fraternization. Whenever it is established that fraternization existed between any of these personnel and the German national, a thorough investigation follows resulting in a severe punishment by the local commander. For first offense, the man is reduced one grade for a period of time, and in case of a private, the guilty person can not be promoted for six months. For second offense, the accused is tried by a military tribunal and is given a minimum sentence of three years, while the maximum depended on the seriousness of the crime. Besides the above, Soviet Commanders can institute tighter control by means of conducting inspection tours of officer's quarters during the evenings to see how the officers are spending their spare time. Privates and NCO's also have similar inspection in addition to which they have bed-checks, and head counts during the night by the Officer of the Day (OD). Another method used by MGB to catch regulation violators is to enlist the help of German waitresses to act as informers, ie, waitresses and maids who are employed on the military installation. At times the MGB specifically sends a German girl to tempt a Soviet citizen and then uses such a contract as evidence against the offender and sends him to the Soviet Union. The MGB also enlists, for like purpose, the aid of agents, through German Police, who reside within a settlement of German nationals and can readily observe any strangers who might visit the settlement near the military installation. In spite of all these precautions, members of Soviet occupation forces continue their illicit fraternization with German nationals.

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.. The morale of the personnel in the 24th Air Army is generally good because of the following factors:

Officer personnel of the 24th Air Army, like all other officers in the VVS, receive much more money than officers in any other branch of the military service. Officers of the 24th Air Army receive more and better quality, personal equipment than SAF officers who are stationed within the Soviet Union. Officer personnel in the 24th Air Army receive two 45-day furloughs per year (not counting travelling time), while officers of the VVS located in the USSR receive only one 45-day furlough per year and those on flying stations receive two 30-day furloughs per year. Food in the SAF is of much better quality and the rations are more liberal than that is available to the ground forces officers. Air Force personnel are provided with better living quarters than ground force personnel are. Officers of the VVS are held in a much higher esteem than officers of other branches of the military service. Consequently, VVS personnel enjoy much more cordial relationship with citizenry in the USSR than do the personnel of other branches of military service. It is necessary to keep in mind that food, clothing and rail travel is free to all Soviet Military personnel.

Aside from occasional exceptions, good discipline among VVS personnel prevails. Officers of the 24th Air Army understand that their personal freedoms are limited; at the same time they also understand that it is a temporary condition which will last only for the duration of their tour of occupation duty (three to four years). These considerations are important factors in prompting officers to conduct themselves like good officers should. A very close comradeship develops among all military personnel regardless of rank. Relatives of military personnel also have a very strong influence over them. For example: people back home may be working on a collective farm, a factory or a plant, while their relative is an officer in the military service. They know that he does not have to work as hard as they do and yet his living conditions are better than theirs.

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION

50X1

- 4 -

Consequently, they urge him to be a good boy, stay out of trouble and make military service a career so that not only he himself will have a better life but at the same time he will be in a position to help them materially. Also, people who have relatives in the military service are themselves looked upon by local authorities as contributors to a good cause.

Enlisted personnel of the VVS also enjoy a better standard of living than do personnel of other branches of military service inasmuch as VVS personnel receive three times as much pay as others do. For example: A sergeant with mechanics "MOS" receives 375 rubles (\$94.00) per month. A private in the lowest pay occupation ("MOS"), a vehicle driver, receives 150 rubles (\$38.00) per month. In the infantry unit the highest pay bracket for a sergeant, assistant platoon commander or a company 1st sergeant is only 175 rubles (\$44.00), and the lowest pay rate for a private is only 25 rubles (\$6.00) per month. Working conditions for a sergeant in the VVS are much more pleasant than are working conditions for a sergeant in the infantry. One of the most important reasons for this difference is the fact that relations between NCO's and officers in the Air Force are very cordial while in the infantry they are not. Enlisted personnel in the 24th Air Army, besides receiving their regular pay in rubles which they can either send home to their relatives or put in the bank, also receive an equal number of German marks for their spending money. That is to say that for every ruble of their regular pay they also receive one mark as additional compensation. They also know that their stay in Germany is only temporary. They are constantly reminded of this fact at their lectures which are conducted by the Political Service Officers. Enlisted personnel, after one year of occupation duty, receive a 30 day furlough (including travel time) which they spend in the Soviet Union. This applies to enlisted personnel of all branches of military service.

Discipline among enlisted personnel is generally good with occasional minor exceptions. For example: in a Air Fighter Regiment there are 215 enlisted personnel, and out of that number there would be only 10 or slightly more violators. The authorities conduct an extensive campaign designed to maintain good military discipline and good moral conduct of military personnel. Whenever an enlisted man spends 30 or 60 minutes with a German girl and does not do anything wrong, his punishment consists of an extension of military service upon return to the Soviet Union. Under these circumstances he does not face the military tribunal. Most of the so-called serious violators were committed during the war, and most of those people have already been demobilized, and replaced by new contingents. Violators of directives and regulations by these replacements occur very seldom. Of course, among enlisted personnel, there are many who are secretly dissatisfied with conditions imposed upon them by the Soviet government and their leaders. Also, though few, there are those who are dissatisfied with their military commander. Military political officers and counter-intelligence officers are always distrusted and disliked. However, man's moral behavior is not influenced by these secret dissatisfactions. General high morale of the Soviet military personnel can be attributed to some ill-conceived US radio broadcasts which are beamed to countries behind the iron curtain. As a matter of fact, some of those broadcasts were interpreted to be directed against the general population of the Soviet Union. However, it is not my intention to cover that problem in this report.

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SECRET/SECURITY INFORMATION